district will have to be shared between two districts created from it. The Government of Bihar, had requested for inclusion of Arwal district, carved out of Jehanabad in the programme. Arwal will the covered under the programme with the proviso that the allocation made for Jehanabad district of Bihar under the BRGF will be shared between Jehanabad district and Arwal district. No official request regarding inclusion of additional Districts under BRGF programme has been received from the Government of Maharashtra.

Deviations in conduct of Panchayat Elections

2483. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI : Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mid term Appraisal Report on the Panchayati Raj system has pointed out certain deviations in the conduct of Panchayat elections by the State Election Commissions;

(b) if so, the details of such deviations in different States, particularly in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) the measures Government propose to initiate to stop any such deviations in future?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, it is a fact that Panchayat Elections in some states including Andhra Pradesh had been delayed on account of a variety of reasons such as pending court cases, Natural calamities, law and order situation etc.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment in Kishansing Tomar V/s. Municipal Corporation of the city of Ahmedabad and others in the case of civil appeal 5756 of 2005 regarding Municipalities/Panchayats elections have ordered that elections to Panchayats or municipalities should be held within the time-frame mandated in the Constitution. If the State Election Commission feels that it is not receiving cooperation from the State Government concerned in discharging its Constitutional obligations, it can approach the High Court in the first instance and thereafter the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus directing the State Government concerned to provide all necessary cooperation and assistance to the State Election Commission so that it can fulfill its Constitutional mandate. The judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court has been circulated to the Panchayati Raj Secretaries of all State Governments.